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NEWS — GOVERNMENT

Town Meeting Members Assoc. up and running

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

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Just in time for Monday's start of Fall Town Meeting, the independent, resident-run Winchester Town Meeting Members Association (www.winchestertmma.org) is up and running, allowing member discuss the warrant articles. Despite the hard work of residents

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Savage and Lance Grenzeback, so far there are only twelve “discussions” and a handful of members commenting.

Town meeting members are exempt from the Commonwealth’s Open Meeting Law which prohibits discussions among a quorum of government committee members outside of a public meeting. The association was formed after the town’s Communications Study Committee met for a year to research how communication about town government matters could be improved.

Non-members can read, but not comment, on the discussions, and should note that the association is not a government body.

The purpose of the association, according to its founders, is to allow members to discuss warrant articles before or during town meeting and to share facts, background and opinions before voting. The association is independent and impartial, governed by an executive board elected annually. Members may post questions, information and statements relating to town meeting articles and town issues on the discussion board, which must comply with its Communications Policy (which can be found here www.winchestertmma.org/

about-the-tmma/communications-policy).

The website also provides helpful information such as the town meeting member directory (found here www.winchester.us/DocumentCenter/

View/9355/Town-Meeting-Members-List), dates and times of the Town Manager’s Public Hearing and Town Meeting, and links to the official web pages for the Town of Winchester and Winchester Town Meeting.

Currently, there are discussions and comments regarding Articl
Projects, specifically around a presentation on capital planning that was

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presented to the Finance Committee on October 24, and Winchester Historical Commission's unanimous endorsement of Motion 16 for the Packer Ellis Tennis Courts engineering. Article 7 on the increased appropriation and borrowing authorization request for the Muraco Elementary Culvert Project is indirectly discussed noting a missed opportunity regarding the project.

Articles 18 and 19 regarding the Lynch solar panels direct purchase, or in the alternative, the power purchase agreement received the most discussion. Some confusion and questions were noted and a good deal of information and background resources were provided by other members in the discussion. Some questions may remain.

Articles 29 and 30, regarding amendments to town bylaws as they relate to Finance Committee appointments and reappointments, also received some discussion. While some wondered what problem the articles were trying to fix, others provided additional background on the issue and a study conducted by the Town of Wayland. One member pointed out that Article 30 seemed clearer and went to the heart of the issue; another pointed out that Article 30 is not an improvement over the current appointment process. He pointed out that Article 30 could create a self-perpetuating committee that is not accountable to town meeting and not well constituted to provide balanced recommendations to town meeting.

Finally, Article 31 (Permanent Street Tree Committee) and Article 22 (Employee Healthcare and Health Insurance Stabilization Fund) received a comment each. A member provided some background on Article 31 from the Sustainability Director Ken Pruitt's Winchester Sustainability Newsletter. Another member provided some facts and comments regarding Article 22.

While residents who are not town meeting members have read-

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access to the Discussion Board, they may view discussions and ask town

meeting members to repost their questions and comments about town meeting articles and town issues. The debates can be viewed at https://forum.winchestertmma.org/vanilla/.

Fall Town Meeting begins Monday, November 6 at 6:30. If anyone needs assistance signing up or using the discussion board, they can contact WebManager@WinchesterTMMA.org.

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NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

March 4, 2026

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NEWS

Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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NEWS

Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for renters, buyers

The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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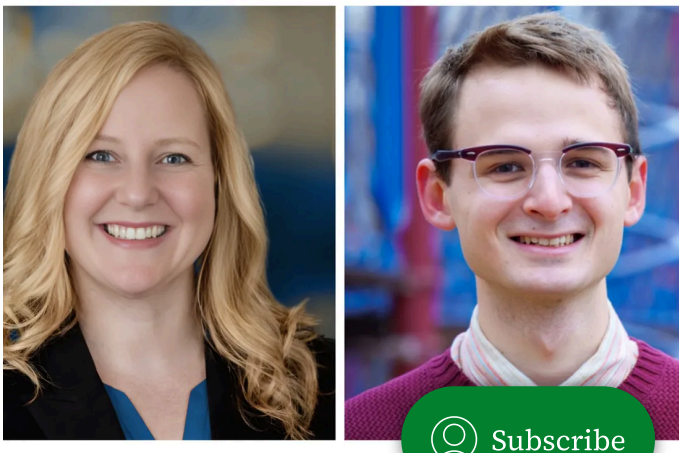

NEWS

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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